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Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. Introduction

The present addendum contains information from 13 additional replies to the request contained in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 61/30 of 4 December 2006, received subsequent to the submission of the main report, from Argentina, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lithuania, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).[1]

II. Information received from Member States

Argentina

[20 August 2008]

1. The Argentine Republic is a party to the core treaties on international humanitarian law and recently ratified the first Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

[1] The full texts of the replies are available for review on the website of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (http://www.un.org/ga/sixth), sixty-third session, "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts", report of the Secretary-General; full texts of the replies.

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2. The Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons are currently in the process of parliamentary approval.

3. In 1994, Argentina established a commission on the application of international humanitarian law, which conducts studies and proposes measures relating to the application of international humanitarian law through legislation or regulations and the teaching and dissemination of the international humanitarian law provisions in force in Argentina.

Costa Rica

[27 August 2008]

1. Costa Rica is a party to the core treaties on international humanitarian law.

2. The Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), was approved by the Legislative Assembly in December 2007 and the instrument of ratification is likely to be deposited in the near future.

3. In 2007 five international humanitarian law-related instruments were brought before the Legislative Assembly for its consideration and approval. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance will quite probably be submitted to the Parliament in 2008.

4. The Government is taking a leading role in important initiatives with other countries, including efforts at the United Nations General Assembly to devise a legal instrument which will make it possible to control and establish clear limits for the arms trade that will respect human rights and international humanitarian law; and efforts to achieve an instrument which specifically addresses the issue of cluster munitions. In September 2007, the Latin American Conference on Cluster Munitions was held in San José. In addition to seeking to advance the so-called Oslo Process, the Conference sought to have our region declared a cluster munitions-free zone.

5. The Costa Rican Committee of International Humanitarian Law (CRCIHL) was established and became operational on 13 December 2004. CRCIHL advises the Executive Branch on the adoption, application and dissemination of international humanitarian law and operates as a mechanism for the prevention of conflict, promotion of a culture of peace, suppression of war crimes and resistance to impunity for such crimes. By encompassing representatives of various sectors, including the legislative, judicial and academic, it is in practice a driving force in disseminating knowledge and raising awareness among an extensive network of actors and serves as a forum for the building of consensus.

6. Among the work undertaken by CRCIHL, the following may be mentioned:

(a) Publication in March 2006 of the book entitled "Women and war", with the sponsorship of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and ICRC;

(b) Numerous courses, round tables, forums and training seminars in international humanitarian law aimed at specialized audiences and the general public, supplemented by human rights perspectives and refugee rights;

(c) Interchanges with other international humanitarian law committees in the region, with ICRC support and with other international organizations accredited in Costa Rica;

(d) Training in international humanitarian law aimed at the special forces;

(e) Provision of advice to the Ministry of External Relations on specific issues related to international humanitarian law and contribution to the approval of draft legislation (international instruments, draft resolutions of the Organization of American States and the United Nations, legislative priorities);

(f) Joint activities with ICRC and the Legislative Assembly in respect of awareness-raising and follow-up of priorities;

(g) Training and outreach activities and the commemoration of the anniversary of the Geneva Protocols, the abolition of the armed forces of Costa Rica and other important occasions of that nature;

(h) Participation in regional and international conferences on arms, enforced disappearance and the review of the status of international humanitarian law in Latin America.

Denmark

[1 July 2008]

1. To ensure the widest possible dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Danish Government in cooperation with the Danish Red Cross has decided measures to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Conventions in 2009 by organizing a special International Humanitarian Law Day on 21 October 2009. The Danish Government and the Danish Red Cross will finance and carry out a number of activities covering research, public lectures, media activities, teaching and educational activities, cultural activities as well as public events.

2. The Government of Denmark is actively pursuing the establishment of a common international platform concerning the handling of detainees in international military operations. The purpose is to ensure that detainees are always given the protection required regardless of the circumstances of detention and that military and other personnel have clear guidelines to follow on this issue. Denmark has initiated the Copenhagen Process on the Handling of Detainees. The first step in this process was taken on 11 and 12 October 2007, when representatives from a number of States and international organizations, including the United Nations and ICRC, met in Copenhagen to discuss the handling of detainees in international military operations. The First Copenhagen Conference focused in particular on three topics:

(a) The interaction of international humanitarian law and human rights law in international military operations: which legal regimes apply under which conditions as well as the liability for States in detaining individuals in such operations;

(b) Standards for the handling of detainees in military operations, including the conditions for the transfer of prisoners to the host country or to other countries;

(c) Future solution on the handling of detainees — the need for operational clarity in particular for those working in the field and the need for identifying relevant best practice guidelines for use in military operations.

3. In May 2008, Denmark convened a seminar on best practices in a national, regional and international perspective, with the aim of identifying best practices elements on handling of detainees relevant to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The identified best practice element will form part of the basis for the Second Copenhagen Conference on the handling of detainees.

4. On 25 May 2007, Denmark ratified the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III) of 8 December 2005.

France

[5 August 2008]

1. France is a party to various treaties on international humanitarian law and is currently undertaking the process of ratifying the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III).

2. At the thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which was held in Geneva in 2007, the Government of France, together with the French Red Cross, undertook to ratify Protocol III of 8 December 2005 and to enhance protection under domestic law for the emblems recognized by the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto.

3. With respect to the enhancement of protection for emblems, the Criminal Code criminalizes the use of a document establishing an official capacity or an insignia regulated by public authority. French legislation is currently being amended with a view to better protecting the emblems of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

4. A National Information Bureau has been created. The ultimate goal is to provide, particularly to families, information on detained persons.

5. France has taken note of the ICRC study on customary humanitarian law. In its view, this study constitutes a useful doctrinal work which, however, could not be used as such against States.

6. Concerned by the impact of armed conflict on civilian populations, France, inter alia, took the initiative of drawing up Security Council resolution 1674 (2006) concerning the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

7. On 8 July 2008, the Parliament of France authorized the Government to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted on 20 December 2006. The instrument of ratification will shortly be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. French legislation is currently being amended with a view to making it possible to: (a) create specific provisions criminalizing forced disappearance in time of peace; (b) incriminate passive complicity; (c) establish a long statute of limitations proportionate to the extreme gravity of this crime, and longer than that of general

law; and (d) widen the competence criteria of the French courts and extend trial options when extradition is not possible.

8. France meets its obligation to disseminate international humanitarian law in a number of ways. Within the Ministry of Defence, the Office of the Law of Armed Conflicts is responsible for such dissemination and has produced several teaching documents, including a manual on the law of armed conflicts and an interactive CD ROM on international humanitarian law. With the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, the Office is involved in training legal advisers. These advisers are also involved in disseminating the law of armed conflicts within the services of the Ministry of Defence in time of peace. Furthermore, every introductory military training course includes instruction in the law of armed conflicts. Training courses may be taken at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, or at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) School in Oberammergau, Germany. These training courses complement the course organized each year for the Ministry of Defence by the legal affairs management and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

9. French law recalls the obligations imposed upon the military to respect and be familiar with international humanitarian law.

10. The Government of France fully recognizes the status of and role played by the French Red Cross as an auxiliary to the public authorities.

11. The National Consultative Commission on Human Rights is a French national institution for the promotion of human rights and international humanitarian law which provides the Government of France with advice and proposals on these issues. The Commission has established a working group on instruction in international humanitarian law with a view to including such law in educational curricula.

12. With regard to dissemination, the Ministry of Defence has developed teaching materials on the protection of cultural property by the military during field operations.

13. In 2008, in addition to its other international humanitarian law-related activities, France has also actively participated with Slovenia and Italy in updating the guidelines on children in armed conflict adopted in 2003 by the European Union to include more countries. France has taken the initiative, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to organize several international conferences on the issue of children in armed conflict. France held a ministerial conference in Paris on 5 and 6 February 2007 on the theme, "Free children from war". During the conference, 59 countries endorsed the Paris Commitments, a political document aimed at strengthening efforts to combat the phenomenon of child soldiers. To follow up the Paris conference, France and UNICEF also organized a ministerial meeting on 1 October 2007 in New York, which helped to garner the support of more countries for the Paris Commitments. At the ministerial level, France will co-chair the first forum to monitor the Paris Commitments in autumn 2008.

14. A second phase to bring French law into line with the Statute of the International Criminal Court is currently under discussion in Parliament. A draft law to amend the Criminal Code, the Code of Military Justice and the Act of 29 July

1881 on freedom of the press will supplement the provisions that are currently applicable to genocide and crimes against humanity.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

[9 June 2008]

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a party to various international humanitarian law instruments and is in the process of translating and disseminating the contents of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Protocols Additional thereto by means of extensively organizing workshops and seminars for Government officials, military personnel, police officers, teachers and students.

2. As regards the accession by the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Additional Protocol III on emblems of the International Committee of the Red Cross, it is still under consideration.

Lebanon

[9 July 2008]

1. The Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities provided a copy of two studies from the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces and the General Directorate of General Security concerning the application of international humanitarian law. The first of those studies contains the following proposals:

(a) A national committee for international humanitarian law should be established with responsibility for closing loopholes in the law, in keeping with the provisions of international humanitarian law;

(b) Efforts to apply that law should be intensified by publicizing its provisions in academic curricula and among such representatives of Government parties responsible for its application as the armed forces and the police force;

(c) Cooperation between Lebanon and the International Committee of the Red Cross should be strengthened; efforts should be exerted to establish and activate national structures consistent with the legislative development of the bases of international humanitarian law.

2. The Security Forces Institute had adopted the aforementioned law in a number of courses it taught. The General Directorate of General Security indicated that it intended in future to include the subject of international humanitarian law in the military training programme for all ranks, and was contributing to the efforts exerted to apply its provisions.

Lithuania

[8 August 2008]

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania provides that Lithuania, in implementing its foreign policy, shall follow the universally recognized principles and norms of international law. The Law on Treaties establishes the prevailing

character of international treaties over the national laws in case of inconsistency. These provisions ensure the most favourable conditions for the implementation of the international humanitarian law. Lithuania is a State party to all major instruments of the international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977 to the Conventions.

2. The Ministry of National Defence is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of international humanitarian law within the State. The national Commission on the implementation of international humanitarian law (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) was established in 2001 as an advisory body to the Minister of National Defence to provide assistance in performing the said function of the Ministry with regard to coordination of the national implementation of international humanitarian law. The Commission is the inter-ministerial coordinating body. The objectives of the Commission are as follows:

(a) To carry analysis of the situation regarding the implementation of international humanitarian law in Lithuania, including Lithuania's participation in multilateral international agreements — joining the agreements, implementation of the provisions of these agreements, dissemination of the documents on international humanitarian law, teaching the law within military and civil training institutions and investigation of the violations and their prevention issues;

(b) To submit proposals on the implementation of international humanitarian law to the leadership of the Ministry of National Defence and the Armed Forces and to other institutions that do not belong to the National Defence System;

(c) To disseminate information on international humanitarian law within the militaries and the public by initiating translations of international humanitarian law documents into the Lithuanian language and publishing them or placing onto the Internet homepage of the Ministry of National Defence;

(d) To initiate or provide assistance in arranging courses, workshops, seminars or conferences on issues regarding the implementation of international humanitarian law.

3. Lithuania is a party to various treaties on international humanitarian law. Lithuania recognizes and respects the basic rules enshrined in article 35 of the Additional Protocol Relating to the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) and the general principle that in any armed conflict, the right of the parties to the conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited. Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War entered into force to Lithuania on 12 November 2006. At the First Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, on 5 November 2007, Lithuania was appointed to chair the Second Conference of the States Parties, which will take place in Geneva on 10 and 11 November 2008. Currently Lithuania is also a coordinator of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Sponsorship Programme. Seeking to implement provisions of Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, an inter-institutional working group was established in 2006, which has prepared a Programme for the Clearance and Prevention of Explosive Remnants of War for the years 2007-2018, approved by the Government in 2007. In the framework of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Mine Ban Treaty), Lithuania is co-chairing the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction in 2007-2008. In May

2008, it joined more than 100 other States in agreeing on a text of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In the field of small arms and light weapons, Lithuania has chaired the Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which took place in New York from 14 to 18 July 2008. From 26 to 28 June 2008, it organized the regional seminar on the theme "Towards global coherence in addressing the problems caused by landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war", which convened participants from more than 30 countries, international organizations, United Nations entities and civil society. Moreover, NATO rules of engagement were implemented (transformed) into the national law in 2006. In addition, national rules of engagement are under the final stages of preparation.

4. In 2007, the Lithuanian Parliament ratified the Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions. Subsequently, all necessary amendments of related national legislation were adopted in order to fully implement Additional Protocol III. Also, practical measures to protect the emblems are taken by the national Red Cross Society. Violators are addressed and informed about the provisions of the laws and the sanctions (more than 30 violators informed). Law enforcement institutions are also informed about the gravest trespassers. In case it proves to be inefficient, the cases are referred to the police for legal procedure.

5. Seeking to implement article 82 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, the National Concept of Military Legal Advisers was approved in 2006 by the Order of Minister of National Defence. A list of military legal advisers was adopted in 2008 by the Commander of the Armed Forces.

6. The Commission collects information regarding education and advises on inclusion of the international humanitarian law subjects into educational programmes. The subject of international humanitarian law is included in education programmes of all levels of military personnel, also in the curriculum of education of police personnel, secondary schools, and so on. International humanitarian law is an optional course in the law faculties of the leading universities as well as in the Institute of International Relations and Political Science. The Commission disseminates information/knowledge on international humanitarian law between military officers and civil servants. During the period 2006-2008, it organized several regional seminars and courses on international humanitarian law. The Commission has its website page within the website of the Ministry of National Defence, where it publishes information about the Commission's activities and also texts of all the international humanitarian law treaties to which Lithuania is a State party, in the Lithuanian language.

7. The fourth Regional Meeting of National Committees of International Humanitarian Law was held in Vilnius in May 2008.

8. The Lithuanian Red Cross Society (hereinafter referred to as the Society) is actively involved in dissemination of international humanitarian law within the society. The Society, cooperating with universities in 2006, organized the Baltic Summer Academy on International Humanitarian Law in order to broaden knowledge in the field of the international humanitarian law. The Society also participated in the work of the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania. In addition, the Society arranged seminars for militaries, participating in peacekeeping missions in

Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo. In 2007, the Society has developed the main programmes and issues of the previous year. The Society participated in the Baltic Summer Academy on International Humanitarian Law in Latvia, in the meeting of Legal Support Group in Finland. The programme "Exploring humanitarian law" and participation in the work of the National Committee on International Humanitarian Law were pursued.

9. Lithuanian Criminal Code, Administrative Offences Code, Statute on Military Discipline encompass the provision, which imposes, respectively, the criminal, administrative or disciplinary liability for the breach of the rules of international humanitarian law, particularly grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions as well as other customary war crimes. The military commanders are obliged to abide by the rules of international humanitarian law as well as to ensure the compliance of the members of the armed forces under their command and other persons under their control. The implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court has been fully completed.

Paraguay

[10 July 2008]

1. Paraguay approved and ratified the Geneva Conventions and approved Additional Protocols I and II. Act No. 3455 of 4 April 2008 on the adoption of an additional distinctive emblem (Protocol III) for the Red Cross was recently enacted.

2. The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as its implementing regulations and its Protocol, were approved by Paraguay. The Second Protocol to the Convention was also approved in 2004. The Inter-ministerial Committee for the Study and Application of International Humanitarian Law (CEADIH), together with the Department of Legal Affairs, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Defence, is currently engaged in registering cultural property.

3. CEADIH has prepared an educational document entitled "Guide to humanitarian standards", which contains principles and provisions for the dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law within the Armed Forces. By means of General Order of 2007, the Commander-in-Chief of the National Armed Forces ordered the approval and publication of the guide and its distribution to all military personnel serving in the National Armed Forces. In addition, the educational document entitled "Soldier's guide" was prepared by the Department of Legal Affairs, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Ministry of Defence, with the support of the United Nations Information Centre. The document was distributed to Paraguay's military units.

4. CEADIH comprises representatives of the Ministry of Defence (which hosts the Office of the President and the General Secretariat), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Labour, the Ministry of the Interior and the Paraguayan Red Cross.

Russian Federation

[16 June 2008]

1. The Russian Federation is a party to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols of 1977. In 2005, the Russian Federation signed Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). In accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law instruments, the Russian Federation is carrying out work on their implementation and on the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law.

2. During the period from 2006 to 2008, methodological recommendations were formulated on the study of the norms of international humanitarian law and started to be applied during combat training. Provisions incorporating norms of international humanitarian law were included in the regulatory and legal instruments (combat and general military statutes) regulating the actions of the military in combat situations.

3. Work is continuing on the dissemination of knowledge about international humanitarian law among military personnel. In particular, during the period 2006-2008, 15 two-week *Senezh* courses to upgrade officers' knowledge about the law of armed conflicts were held; over 350 officers from the Russian Federation and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) received this training. In addition, travelling seminars on international humanitarian law were held for officers. During the same period, annual meetings of the heads of the legal services of branches of the military were organized to study the latest experience in the dissemination of knowledge among military personnel in the area of international humanitarian law. Two scientific and practical conferences on the study of the norms of international law were held within the framework of the educational programmes of military higher educational institutions for professorial and teaching staff of military universities. The traditional annual round table was held with representatives of the military bodies responsible for the organization of combat training of the main headquarters of branches of the military, military districts and fleets to discuss issues of the study of international humanitarian law in the military.

4. The study of international humanitarian law is also organized through contests. In the "General Skobelev" annual contests on international humanitarian law for student teams from the military universities of the Russian Federation, teams from CIS countries also participated. In addition, two "Commander Suvorov" contests on the laws and customs of war were organized for teams from the Suvorov military academies, the Nakhimovsky naval academy and cadet colleges, as well as the "Marshal Rokossovsky" distance contest for military personnel, consisting of written submissions on international humanitarian law.

Serbia

[9 June 2008]

1. The Serbian military educates its members, organizing regular courses and expert specialist group training, and cooperates actively with the competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia in drafting and adopting the legislation regulating this matter. Within the general subject entitled Military Law and Regulations,

international humanitarian law is included in the curriculum of the Military Academy. Consideration is currently being given to the idea to include international humanitarian law in the concrete and applicable form into the system of tactical and combat training of the students of the Academy of all specialties and directions.

2. The promotion of knowledge of the Protocols and international humanitarian law is done by the Red Cross of Serbia on the basis of its mandate as Serbia's national Red Cross society, Statute of the Red Cross of Serbia and the Law on the Red Cross of Serbia. The training programmes for the members of the Serbian military, carried out by its units and institutions in cooperation and assistance of the Red Cross of Serbia and ICRC, have proved particularly successful. In 2006, the Red Cross of Serbia adopted a strategy related to these activities, covering a period of four years.

3. The Annual Cooperation Plan was signed by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, ICRC and the Red Cross of Serbia in 2008 on promoting the knowledge of international humanitarian law. The Cooperation Plan provides, among others, for the organization of seminars on international humanitarian law, participation of the Red Cross of Serbia in military exercises, promotion of international humanitarian law and Red Cross activities and mandate in the publications of the Serbian military and cooperation in the elaboration of a new manual for the implementation of international humanitarian law in the units of the Serbian military. The work on it is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

4. The Red Cross of Serbia has been engaged in teaching persons in the Civilian National Service the main precepts of international humanitarian law, while the programmes devised for that purpose accentuate the importance of the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols.

5. Alongside its work with the Serbian military, the Red Cross of Serbia, in cooperation with ICRC and the support of national Red Cross societies of other countries, has been engaged in promoting the knowledge of the Additional Protocols and international humanitarian law to the general public. Programmes within these activities, tailored to suit various groups, are put in practice through eight centres in large university cities and cover the entire territory of the country. Also, special programmes are devised for Red Cross personnel and volunteers at all levels, as well as for students and teachers, doctors and nurses, those employed in the judiciary and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Particularly popular is the competition in international humanitarian law organized annually by the Red Cross of Serbia with the support of ICRC. Staged in 2008 for the seventh consecutive year, the competition had the participation of student teams from the Faculties of Law in Niš, Novi Sad and Belgrade and the Faculty of Political Science and Military and Police Academies from Belgrade (the schools that have international humanitarian law on their curricula) and was given wide media attention and coverage.

6. The Red Cross of Serbia is a regular participant in many international events in the field of international humanitarian law, including, among others, the Round Table at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Conferences in Geneva, Switzerland. The representatives of the Red Cross of Serbia participated in the Lebanon and Oslo Conferences on Cluster Munitions, held in 2007. The Red Cross of Serbia also participated in organizing the Conference of States Affected by Cluster Munitions in Belgrade in 2007 and the NGO Forum that preceded the Conference.

7. Cooperation is also maintained with the Advisory Service of ICRC in the implementation of the provisions of the Additional Protocols and other rules of international humanitarian law, the effective expert assistance of which has made a significant contribution to identifying and implementing the necessary measures in the Republic of Serbia.

8. Following the dissolution of the State union of Serbia and Montenegro, Serbia has taken measures to establish a National Commission to implement international humanitarian law within the next couple of months. The Red Cross of the Republic of Serbia has its own Commission on International Humanitarian Law.

Slovenia

[17 June 2008]

1. With a view to educating members of the Slovenian Armed Forces in the area of armed conflicts, including the content of the Additional Protocols, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia allocated the targeted research project to the Institute for Comparative Law Studies, Faculty of Law in Ljubljana and to the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana entitled "Analysis of requirements for understanding the international law of armed conflicts and international humanitarian law and elaboration of a manual for Slovenian armed forces", which will end in November 2008.

2. The Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana in cooperation with ICRC is in the process of organizing a round table aimed at presenting the Study on customary international humanitarian law at the beginning of October 2008, which will also be attended by the co-author of the Study, Jean-MarieHenckaerts. On this occasion, Slovenian translation of the article on the Study will be presented to the Slovenian broader public.

3. Members of the National Commission on International Humanitarian Law (NCIHL) participated in the Fourth Regional Meeting of National Committees from Central and South-Eastern Europe in Vilnius on 7 and 8 May 2008, with the report on the work of NCIHL, as well as with the presentation entitled "Drafting a national military manual as a teaching tool: Sources, content and relevance".

4. Slovenia has ratified or accessed to all important international documents connected to international humanitarian law, including Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions.

5. In 2008, the new Criminal Code was adopted. In the field of the international humanitarian law, this law harmonizes the definitions of war crimes, crimes against humanity and international law with the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[15 September 2008]

1. The United Kingdom established a National Committee on International Humanitarian Law in 1999. The National Committee has met annually to develop further and disseminate understanding of international humanitarian law policy and

practice nationally, and to discuss ways to encourage international partners to do likewise, particularly within the Commonwealth. The United Kingdom has promoted the formation of national international humanitarian law committees, and has offered practical assistance to those wishing to do so.

2. The United Kingdom has legislation (namely, the Geneva Conventions Acts and the International Criminal Court Act) which enables those who commit war crimes to be punished.

3. The United Kingdom is a party to almost all of the treaties relating to international humanitarian law, fully intends to fulfil its commitment to ratify the Additional Protocol III to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and is currently preparing a draft bill for publication as soon as possible this year.

4. International humanitarian law has been included in the national curriculum for secondary schools in England. In addition, the United Kingdom offers general international humanitarian law training to governmental policy and legal advisers plus ad hoc events and training as required. The United Kingdom also provides information on relevant international humanitarian law issues to the media in connection with events current at the time, including armed conflicts.

5. The United Kingdom continues to assist the international organizations and non-governmental organizations in their work on international humanitarian law and supporting its implementation through the provision of financial and other support.

6. All United Kingdom servicemen and women are instructed in the relevant aspects of international humanitarian law. The United Kingdom Ministry of Defence has published a Manual on Law of Armed Conflict, containing comprehensive guidance for Army, Navy and Air Force and relevant training materials have been produced.

7. Relevant aspects of international humanitarian law are also covered as part of predeployment training for all service personnel.

8. Under the Service Discipline Acts, service personnel are subject to English criminal law wherever they are serving.

9. All substantial allegations or suspicions involving activity of a criminal nature by military personnel are investigated by the service police special investigations branch.

III. Information received from international organizations

International Committee of the Red Cross

[19 August 2008]

ICRC notes that several reports submitted to the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/30 of 4 December 2006 include references to the third Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III) of 8 December 2005. ICRC would like herewith to confirm that Protocol Additional III entered into force on 14 January 2007 and respectfully submits to the Secretary-General the following list of States parties/Signatories to the Protocol as of 15 August 2008:

List of States parties to Additional Protocol III of 8 December 2005 as at 15 August 2008[a]

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reserves/ Declaration*[b]
Afghanistan			
Albania		6 February 2008	
Algeria			
Andorra			
Angola	14 March 2006		
Antigua and Barbuda			
Argentina	13 March 2006		
Armenia			
Australia	8 March 2006		
Austria	8 December 2005		
Azerbaijan			
Bahamas			
Bahrain			
Bangladesh			
Barbados			
Belarus			
Belgium	8 December 2005		
Belize		3 April 2007	
Benin			
Bhutan			
Bolivia	8 December 2005		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14 March 2006		
Botswana			
Brazil	14 March 2006		
Brunei Darussalam			
Bulgaria	14 March 2006	13 September 2006	
Burkina Faso	7 December 2006		

State	Signature	Ratification, accession or succession	Reserves; Declaration[a]
Burundi	8 December 2005		
Cambodia			
Cameroon			
Canada	19 June 2006	26 November 2007	x
Cape Verde	10 January 2006		
Central African Republic			
Chad			
Chile	8 December 2005		
China			
Colombia	8 December 2005		
Comoros			
Congo	8 December 2005		
Cook Islands			
Costa Rica	8 December 2005	30 June 2008	
Côte d'Ivoire			
Croatia	29 May 2006	13 June 2007	
Cuba			
Cyprus	19 June 2006	27 November 2007	
Czech Republic	12 April 2006	23 May 2007	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea			
Democratic Republic of the Congo			
Denmark	8 December 2005	25 May 2007	
Djibouti			
Dominica			
Dominican Republic	26 July 2006		
Ecuador	8 December 2005		
Egypt			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reserves/ Declaration*[b]
El Salvador	8 March 2006	12 September 2007	
Equatorial Guinea			
Eritrea			
Estonia	14 March 2006	28 February 2008	
Ethiopia	13 March 2006		
Fiji		30 July 2008	
Finland	14 March 2006		
France	8 December 2005		
Gabon			
Gambia			
Georgia	28 September 2006	19 March 2007	
Germany	13 March 2006		
Ghana	14 June 2006		
Greece	8 December 2005		
Grenada			
Guatemala	8 December 2005	14 March 2008	
Guinea			
Guinea-Bissau			
Guyana			
Haiti	6 December 2006		
Holy See			
Honduras	13 March 2006	8 December 2006	
Hungary	19 June 2006	15 November 2006	
Iceland	17 May 2006	4 August 2006	
India			
Indonesia			
Iran (Islamic Republic of)			
Iraq			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reservations/ Declaration*[a]
Ireland	20 June 2006		
Israel	8 December 2005	22 November 2007	x
Italy	8 December 2005		
Jamaica	5 December 2006		
Japan			
Jordan			
Kazakhstan			
Kenya	30 March 2006		
Kiribati			
Kuwait			
Kyrgyzstan			
Lao People's Democratic Republic			
Latvia	20 June 2006	2 April 2007	
Lebanon			
Lesotho			
Liberia			
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya			
Liechtenstein	8 December 2005	24 August 2006	
Lithuania	6 December 2006	28 November 2007	
Luxembourg	8 December 2005		
Madagascar	8 December 2005		
Malawi			
Malaysia			
Maldives			
Mali			
Malta	8 December 2005		
Marshall Islands			
Mauritania			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reserves/ Declaration*[b]
Mauritius			
Mexico	16 November 2006	7 July 2008	
Micronesia (Federated States of)			
Moldova	13 September 2006		
Monaco	15 March 2006	12 March 2007	
Mongolia			
Montenegro			
Morocco			
Mozambique			
Myanmar			
Namibia			
Nauru	27 June 2006		
Nepal	14 March 2006		
Netherlands	14 March 2006	13 December 2006	
New Zealand	19 June 2006		
Nicaragua	8 March 2006		
Niger			
Nigeria			
Norway	8 December 2005	13 June 2006	
Oman			
Pakistan			
Palau			
Panama	19 June 2006		
Papua New Guinea			
Paraguay	14 March 2006		
Peru	8 December 2005		
Philippines	13 March 2006	22 August 2006	
Poland	20 June 2006		

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reserves/ Declaration*[a]
Portugal	8 December 2005		
Qatar			
Republic of Korea	2 August 2006		
Romania	20 June 2006		
Russian Federation	7 December 2006		
Rwanda			
Saint Kitts and Nevis			
Saint Lucia			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			
Samoa			
San Marino	19 January 2006	22 June 2007	
Sao Tome and Principe			
Saudi Arabia			
Senegal			
Serbia	31 March 2006		
Seychelles			
Sierra Leone	20 June 2006		
Singapore	2 August 2006	7 June 2008	
Slovakia	25 April 2006	30 May 2007	
Slovenia	19 May 2006	10 March 2008	
Solomon Islands			
Somalia			
South Africa			
Spain	23 December 2005		
Sri Lanka			
Sudan			
Suriname			
Swaziland			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reserves/ Declaration*[b]
Sweden	30 March 2006		
Switzerland	8 December 2005	14 July 2006	
Syrian Arab Republic			
Tajikistan			
Thailand			
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 May 2006		
Timor-Leste	8 December 2005		
Togo	26 June 2006		
Tonga			
Trinidad and Tobago			
Tunisia			
Turkey	7 December 2006		x
Turkmenistan			
Tuvalu			
Uganda			
Ukraine	23 June 2006		
United Arab Emirates			
United Kingdom	8 December 2005		
United Republic of Tanzania	8 December 2005		
United States	8 December 2005	8 March 2007	
Uruguay	13 March 2006		
Uzbekistan			
Vanuatu			
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)			
Viet Nam			
Yemen			
Zambia			

State	*Signature*	*Ratification, accession or succession*	*Reserves/ Declaration*[b]
Zimbabwe			
Number of States signatory	55		
Number of States party		32	

[a] *Source*: The Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medilib/downloads/edazen/topics/intla/intrea/depch/warvic.Par.0015.File.tmp/mt_080708_05prot3part_f.pdf.

[b] Ratification, accession or succession accompanied by a reservation and/or a declaration.